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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A camera comprising:
a shutter button;
a lens;
an image sensor for receiving images viewed by the lens; and
        processing circuitry that comprises a control algorithm that implements an automated zoom control function that automatically records a plurality of closely related images having different zoom levels upon depressing of the shutter button, and from which a user selectively chooses images for storage.

2. The camera recited in Claim 1 wherein the zoom levels are predetermined.

3. The camera recited in Claim 1 wherein the zoom levels are postdetermined.

4. The camera recited in Claim 1 which comprises mechanical zoom control that moves certain optical elements of the lens to different physical positions.

5. The camera recited in Claim 1 which comprises digital zoom control wherein pixels of a recorded image are removed from the recorded image and the resultant image is scaled to its original size to create the illusion of zoom capture.

6. The camera recited in Claim 1 wherein the control algorithm implements automated wide angle capture wherein different wide angle settings are prestored, and upon depressing of the shutter button, a plurality of images are automatically recorded at different wide angle and zoom settings.

7. A camera comprising:
shutter button;
a lens;
an image sensor for receiving images viewed by the lens; and
        processing circuitry (that comprises a control algorithm that implements an automated wide angle capture function that automatically records a plurality of closely related wide angle images having different wide angle views upon depressing of the shutter button, and from which a user selectively chooses images for storage.

8. A method comprising the steps of:

configuring a camera to have a shutter button, a lens, an image sensor for receiving images viewed by the lens, and processing circuitry that comprises a control algorithm;

5   automatically recording a plurality of images upon depressing of the shutter button to capture a series of very closely related images having different zoom levels; and

selecting an image from the series of automatically recorded images for storage.

9. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein the zoom levels are predetermined.

10. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein the zoom levels are postdetermined.

11. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein the step of automatically recording the images comprises moving certain optical elements of the lens to different physical positions.

12. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein the step of automatically recording the images comprises removing pixels of a recorded image from the recorded image and scaling the resultant image to its original size to create the illusion of zoom capture.

13. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein the step of automatically recording the images comprises automatically recording a plurality of images to capture a series of very closely related images having different zoom levels.

14. A camera comprising:

imaging means for selectively coupling images from an image scene;

image sensing means for sensing the images coupled by the imaging means; and

processing means that implements an automated zoom control function, for

5   automatically recording a plurality of closely related images having different zoom levels sensed by the image sensing means, and from which a user selectively chooses one or more images for storage.

15. The camera recited in Claim 14 wherein the imaging means comprises a shutter button and a lens.

16. The camera recited in Claim 14 wherein the zoom levels are predetermined.

17. The camera (recited in Claim 14 wherein the zoom levels are postdetermined.

18. The camera recited in Claim 15 which comprises mechanical zoom control that moves certain of the imaging means to different physical positions.

19. The camera recited in Claim 14 which comprises digital zoom control wherein pixels of a recorded image are removed from the recorded image and the resultant image is scaled to its original size to create the illusion of zoom capture.

20. The camera recited in Claim 14 wherein the processing means comprises a control algorithm that implements automated wide angle capture wherein different wide angle settings are prestored, and a plurality of images are automatically recorded at different wide angle and zoom settings.